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Camborne-Redruth Urban District Council.



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

ROBERT POLLOK,

T.D., L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. Edin., L.R.F.P. & S. Glasgow, D.R.C.O.G., L.D.S.

for the twelve months ending

DECEMBER 31, 1947.

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CAMBORNE-REDRUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer's Report

for the year ending December 31, 1947.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my second, and final Annual Report on the Health of the Urban District during the year 1947. The National Health Service Act will come into force on July 5th, 1948, when I will hand over my duties to a full time Medical Officer of Health who will also administer Helston Borough, and Kerrier Rural District, as well as the Camborne-Redruth Urban District.

Considerable progress has been made in several spheres, in housing, in piped water supplies, in the establishment of new industries in the area, and in the immunisation campaign against Diphtheria, but much more remains to be done.

With the co-operation of all departments of the Urban District Council it should be possible for a full time officer to achieve more than I have been able to accomplish in the available time at my disposal.

However, progress in Public Health matters is unlikely to be maintained merely by the creation of expensive administrations. This is more likely to be achieved by increasing production of cheaper food, with improvement in the general standard of nutrition, by more and better houses, by better piped water supplies, especially to the farms and outlying villages, by the provision of sewers where none exist, by improving the cowsheds and dairies, by the more hygienic handling of food, by more propaganda and education of the public in health matters, and lastly, and by no means least, by more hard work, and a better sense of service for the common weal.

I wish to thank all officials of the council, the chairman and members of the health committee, and you sir, for all the help you and they have always afforded me during my term of office.

I shall now proceed to make my report, and make any comment that may seem to me helpful as I go along.

SECTION A. Statistics and social conditions of the area.

1. Statistics.

SECTION A (Statistics)—continued.

2. Employment.

Numbers insured. The number of persons insured under the Unemployment Insurance Acts in the Camborne-Redruth area in July, 1947, was:—

Males.	Females.	Total.
7,450	2,482	9,932

Compared with July, 1946, the figures reveal an increase for males of 21, and a decrease for females of 248.

Numbers Unemployed.

Date.	MEN aged 18 years and over.	BOYS under 18 years.	WOMEN aged 18 years and over.	GIRLS under 18 years.	Total.
13-1-47	551	8	100	7	666
14-4-47	540	8	64	1	613
14-7-47	520	6	49	3	578
13-10-47	472	9	49	2	532

There has been a gradual decrease in the numbers unemployed in the case of males over 18 = 79, and females over 18 = 51.

Industries opened since last report.

The Farmers' Marketing Supplies Co., opened in Camborne in the Autumn of 1947, and this industry has made employment opportunities for 70 workpeople, the majority being women. Messrs. Tools & Dies, Ltd., a London firm, opened in December, 1947, and so far employment opportunities for 50 men have been found. Messrs. John Heathcoat, Ltd. (Textiles), will be opening their new factory at Carn Brea during 1948, and this is likely to provide employment opportunities for 300 workers, again mainly women.

The Lizard and District Laundry at Carn Brea is expected to commence business in April or May, 1948, and will require up to 60 female workers.

In August, 1947, the Disabled Persons Employment Corporation opened a Remploy Factory at Redruth, and at this date 53 serious disabled persons (all men) are employed on woodwork.

The future prospect of new industries coming into the area is not a hopeful one. There is the acute problem of suitable employment for men in the upper age group, age 50 and over, and within the group a high percentage of disabled persons.

There is no problem with finding suitable employment for women and juveniles.

It is unlikely that the old established industries in the area will expand and therefore the absorption of men unemployed will doubtless depend on the introduction of new industries.

3. Poor Law Relief.

In the year	...	...	1935	1939	1945	1946	1947
In cash and in kind	...		£22,443	£20,724	£13,460	£13,369	£14,942

4. VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.	Males.	Females.	1947 Total.	1946 Total.	1945 Total.	1936 Total.
Legitimate ...	357	315	672	603	439	454
Illegitimate ...	26	17	43	33	75	29
Total Live Births ...	383	332	715	636	514	483

Birth Rate (Live Births per 1,000 estimated mean annual population).

Year	...	1947	1946	1945	1936
		20.58	18.52	15.58	13.69

SECTION A (Statistics)—continued.

Still Births.	Males.	Females.	1947 Total.	1946 Total.	1945 Total.	1936 Total.
Legitimate ...	14	8	22	24	26	15
Illegitimate ...	0	0	0	1	4	0
Total Still Births ...	14	8	22	25	30	15

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births.

Year	... ...	1947	1946	1945	1936
		29.8	36.3	55.1	32.3

Deaths from all causes.	Males.	Females.	Total 1947.	Total 1946.	Total 1945.	Total 1936.
	243	293	536	502	481	520

Death Rate (that is deaths per 1,000 mean annual population).

Year	... ...	1947	1946	1945	1936
		15.38	14.59	14.21	14.74

The death rate for 1947, 15.38 again shows a slight rise, and is higher for that for England and Wales 12. The death rate for Cornwall is higher than that for England and Wales probably because more elderly, and infirm people tend to drift towards the county on account of the milder climatic conditions.

Comparative Birth and Death Rates for the year 1947.

	Camborne-Redruth.	England and Wales.	148 Smaller Towns Res. Pop. 25,000—50,000.	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London.
Live Birth Rate	20.58	20.5	22.2	23.3
Still Birth Rate	0.63	0.50	0.54	0.62
Death Rate	15.38	12.0	11.9	13.0

Comment. The Birth Rate for Camborne-Redruth 20.58, again shows an increase, and is just a little over that for England and Wales as a whole. There is a slight increase in the number of illegitimate births but, this percentage increase of illegitimate births is very little above the percentage increase of births as a whole. There is a satisfactory drop in the still birth rate which approximates more closely to the still birth rate for England and Wales as a whole. With the improved and augmented Maternity Services under the New National Health Service the still birth rate should show a further improvement in the near future.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age.

	Males.	Females.	1947 Total.	1946 Total.	1945 Total.	1936 Total.
Legitimate ...	16	13	29	19	13	23
Illegitimate ...	1	0	1	3	4	1
	17	13	30	22	17	24

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age.

Camborne-Redruth.	England and Wales.	148 Smaller Towns, Res. Pop. 25,000—50,000.
1947 1946 1945 1936	1947 1946 1945 1936	1947 1946 1945 1936

All infants per 1,000 live births	... 41.9 34.59 33.1	41.9 34.59 33.1 49.6	41.0 43.0 46.0 59.0
Legitimate per 1,000 live births	... 40.5 31.5	20.9	— — — —
Illegitimate per 1,000 live births	... 1.3 90.9	53.3	— — — —

Infant Mortality (Deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 births).

	Camborne-Redruth.	England and Wales.	148 Smaller Towns, Res. Pop. 25,000—50,000.
1947 1946 1945 1936	41.9 34.59 33.1 49.6	41.0 36.0 37.0	— —

The infant mortality rate again shows an increase over the 1946 figure 41.9 against 34.59, and very slightly exceeds the figure for England and Wales as a whole 41 and exceeds the figure for the average for the 148 Smaller Towns Resident Population 25,000—50,000 that is areas similar in size and population to Camborne-Redruth, the report mortality rate for which is 36 for 1947.

SECTION A (Statistics)—continued.

However on analysing those 30 deaths of infants under one year of age for 1947 it is found that nine were premature infants, two died of birth injuries, twelve were borne with lethal congenital defects, and only seven died of infections.

Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis, under two years of age. One child only died under this heading in 1947.

Camborne-Redruth.	England and Wales.	148 Smaller Towns, Res. Pop. 25,000—50,000.
Per 1,000 live births 1.39	5.8	3.7

5. Population.

Year.	Registrar General's Estimated figure.	Births.	Deaths.	Birth and Death Ratio.
1937	... 35,000	487	580	-93
1938	... 35,000	463	540	-77
1939	... 35,000	514	566	-48
1940	... 35,000	486	567	-81
1941	... 35,000	—	—	—
1942	... 35,000	542	472	+70
1943	... 34,670	646	510	+136
1944	... 34,670	587	510	+77
1945	... 33,850	514	481	+33
1946	... 34,330	636	502	+134
1947	... 34,830	715	536	+179

6. The causes of death in the area in the year 1947.

		Males.	Females.	Total.
1. Whooping cough	... ... ... ...	2	0	2
2. Diphtheria	... ... ... ...	0	1	1
3. Tuberculosis of the respiratory organs	... ...	10	5	15
4. Tuberculosis of other parts	... ...	0	1	1
5. Syphilitic diseases	... ...	1	0	1
6. Influenza	... ... ... ...	1	1	2
7. Acute inflammatory encephalitis	... ...	0	2	2
8. Cancer	... ... ... ...	31	45	76
9. Diabetes	... ... ... ...	2	1	3
10. Intracranial vascular lesions	... ...	20	31	51
11. Heart diseases	... ... ... ...	87	113	200
12. Other disease of circulatory system	... ...	8	5	13
13. Bronchitis	... ... ... ...	6	8	14
14. Pneumonia	... ... ... ...	10	10	20
15. Other respiratory diseases	... ...	8	2	10
16. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	... ...	4	0	4
17. Diarrhoea under two years of age	... ...	1	0	1
18. Appendicitis	... ... ... ...	2	0	2
19. Other digestive diseases	... ... ... ...	3	5	8
20. Nephritis	... ... ... ...	7	13	20
21. Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	... ...	0	0	0
22. Other maternal causes	... ...	0	0	0
23. Premature births	... ... ... ...	4	2	6
24. Congenital malformations and birth injuries	... ...	7	8	15
25. Suicides	... ... ... ...	0	0	0
26. Road traffic accidents	... ... ... ...	2	0	2
27. Other violent causes	... ... ... ...	5	2	7
28. All other causes	... ... ... ...	22	38	60
	Total deaths	243	293	536

SECTION A (Statistics)—continued.

Comment. Deaths from tuberculosis continue to decrease from 23 in 1946 to 16 in 1947.

Deaths from cancer again show a rise from 68 in 1946 to 76 in 1947 which is above the average for the last ten years of 69. It has however still to be stressed that with improved pathological facilities in the district cancer is more easily diagnosed, and less seldom "missed," and that more cases are coming to hospital for treatment.

A very bright feature is that for the second year in succession in 1947 there have been no deaths from puerperal sepsis or from other maternal causes. This is due to the modern efficient methods of treatment by penicillin and sulpha drugs for the former, and to more efficient and painstaking antenatal care, and diagnosis in maternal cases.

Under the heading other respiratory diseases, six men were recorded as dying from silicosis as against nine last year. This is very much less than it used to be. The average figure just over 30 years ago was 50. This is undoubtedly due to the decline of the mining industry in the neighbourhood.

There is a continued decrease in deaths from diphtheria, one in 1947 as against four in 1938.

7. Silicosis.

Under the various Industries Silicosis Medical Arrangements Scheme, 1931, the Medical Board, in this area, dealt with 40 claims as against 46 in the previous year.

Of these 40 claims six were death claims, the others being disability claims.

SECTION B. General Provision of Health Services in the area.

1. Nursing.

As this is not a Welfare Authority, no Health Visitors, Nurses or Midwives are at present employed by the Council.

2. Ambulance Facilities.

Excellent Ambulance facilities are available in the area. We are indebted to the County Commissioner, St. John Ambulance Brigade, Lt.-Col. W. Blackwood, D.S.O., M.B.E., M.B. (Knight of the Order) for the following information.

Motor Ambulances in the Area.

Station.	Garage.	Officer in Charge.
Camborne	College Street, Tel. 2257 (Police)	Div. Supt. J. Jory 6, Middle Centenary Row. Tel. 3215.
Illogan	Agar Road, Pool. Tel. 417 Redruth.	Div. Supt. S. E. Polkinghorne, 103, Agar Road, Illogan Highway.
Redruth	Basset Street. Tel. 159 Redruth.	Div. Supt. F. Polkinghorne, "Rose Marie," South Downs, Redruth, or
Redruth "A"	do.	Div. Supt. R. J. Blamey, 17 Green Lane, Redruth.

Report of Divisions in the area for the year ending 31st December, 1947.

Division	Strength	First Aid Given	Patients Removed	Mileage	Road Accidents
Camborne ...	33	361	136	2,843	11
Illogan ...	30	1,205	358	6,007	35
Redruth ...	32	1,273	432	5,293	15
Redruth "A" ...	27				
Total	122	2,839	926	14,143	61
	—	—	—	—	—

Nursing Division	Strength	Attending Females	Hours at Hospital	Child Welfare	First Aid Rendered
Camborne ...	13	51	—	—	316
Portreath ...	8	9	—	—	56
Illogan ...	10	119	—	—	248
Redruth ...	24	189	—	—	202
Total	55	368	—	—	822
	—	—	—	—	—

Cadets

	Boys (Ambulance) Strength		Girls (Nursing) Strength	Attended at Hospital
Camborne ...	32	Camborne	23	50 hrs.
Illogan ...	34	Illogan	25	—
Redruth ...	26	Redruth	30	521 hrs.
Treleigh ...	13	Penponds	14	102 hrs.
Troon ...	14			
Total	119		92	673 hrs.
	—	—	—	—

SECTION B (Health Services)—continued.

3. Nursing in the Home.

There are eight District Nursing Associations in the area, each affiliated with the County Nursing Association.

President: Nancy, Lady Vivian.

Honorary Secretary: Miss Margaret Smith, Lynn Allen, Truro.

County Superintendent: Miss A. White, "Katoomba," The Crescent, Truro.

Assistant County Superintendent: Miss Witting, "Katoomba," Truro.

Association.	Local Secretary.
1. Camborne	Mrs. Britten, 55 Mount Pleasant Road, Camborne
2. Redruth	Mrs. White, 129 Albany Road, Redruth
3. Treslothan	Mrs. Simmons, 99 New Road, Troon
4. North Illogan	Miss E. Luke, Park Bottom, Carn Brea
5. South Illogan	Mr. F. Bawden, Trevenson Moors, Pool
6. Pencoys and Carnkie	Mrs. Collins, Four Lanes, Redruth
7. Lanner	Miss D. E. Curnow, Glengarth, Lanner
8. St. Day	Mr. Leonard Wills, 7 Mill Street, St. Day

There is still a shortage of nurses notwithstanding the increase of their emoluments and raised status. The work they have done is remarkably good, it cannot be too highly praised.

The District Nursing Association. Summary of Visits in 1947.

		New Cases	Nursing Visits	Maternal and Child Welfare	Schools
North Illogan	...	96	1,861	1,174	25
South Illogan	...	—	1,470	1,524	8
Redruth	...	155	2,850	1,288	—
Camborne	...	—	3,605	2,934	—
Treslothan	...	115	1,220	1,732	43
Pencoys	...	163	1,982	682	33
Lanner and Gwennap	...	—	—	—	—
St. Day and Carharrack	...	—	—	—	—
		<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>			
		529	12,988	9,334	109

In Camborne and Redruth School Inspections are carried out by Health Visitors.

4. Hospitals.

The Camborne-Redruth Miners' and General Hospital, Redruth.

The following details have been kindly given by Mr. J. C. Field, F.H.A., Secretary-Supt.

In-patients:—	1946	1947
Total number of available beds	154	168
Average number of beds daily occupied	137.7	139.41
Number of patients admitted	2,521	2,707

Out-patients:—

Total number of new out-patients	4,342	6,475
Total number of out-patient attendances (including casualties) ...	26,831	33,682

X-ray Department:—

Number of patients radiographed	2,691	3,834
Number of deep X-ray treatments	3,099	4,142
Number of superficial X-ray treatments	551	751
Number of radium treatments	91	83

SECTION B (Health Services)—continued.

The Rivers Pathological Department.

Number of specimens examined :—	1946	1947
Out-patients	821	1,140
General wards	1,748	2,757
Private wards	138	501
Cornwall County Council (mainly Maternity)	1,448	1,599
Various Local Sanitary Authorities	900	638

In addition to general Medicine and Surgery the following special department facilities are available at the Hospital :—

Ante-Natal	Ophthalmic	Dental
Gynæcological	Venereal Diseases	Silicosis
Diabetic	Neurological	
Ear, Nose and Throat	Dermatological	

Radium and deep X-ray therapy is being developed rapidly. As this report is being written a second deep therapy machine is being installed. This apparatus will enable the waiting list to be overcome and treatment time shortened.

Ample physiotherapy is available in the Rehabilitation Department, considerable additions having been made to the equipment.

The Ophthalmic Department increases in usefulness, many additional instruments having been provided during the year.

Much equipment has also been added to the Ear, Nose and Throat Department, the work of which is now substantial.

A new Laboratory building in course of erection will provide really fitting accommodation for the Rivers Pathological Department which has been housed temporarily at "Tolvean."

During the summer, a Neurologist was appointed and the Department for the treatment of organic neurological disease well established.

In the autumn, a Dermatologist was appointed and considerable facilities are now available for the treatment of skin diseases.

It will be remembered that during 1946 the Hospital took over for the Urban District Council the provision of treatment for scabies. The number of persons disinfested in the year was 91 as against 182 in the previous year, and continued to show a steady decrease month by month. There were 366 treatments given as against 584 in the previous year. This shows slightly more than four treatments per person infested for 1947, as against just over three treatments per person infested for 1946. However, the end result is better with fewer relapses and fewer new cases each month.

The County Maternity Unit.

This department in the Hospital is under the administrative control of Dr. R. N. Curnow, County Medical Officer; with whose permission the following information has been kindly supplied by the Medical Officer in charge, Mr. J. G. Hastings Ince, F.R.C.O.G., who is my chief in that department.

The Department includes :—

1. The Maternity Ward	...	...	20 beds
2. The Trewirgie Annexe	...	...	20 beds
3. The Penventon Annexe	...	...	20 beds
	In all	...	<u>60 beds</u>

Additional beds are added temporarily as emergencies arise.

SECTION B (Health Services)—continued.

During the year 896 patients were admitted thus:—

		Booked Patients	Emergencies	Total
1. Delivered in Hospital	... ...	580	239	819
2. For ante-natal treatment only	... ...	9	31	40
3. Post natal treatment	... ...	18	15	33
4. Abortions	... ... ...	2	2	4
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Admissions	...	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The 896 deliveries during the year included:—

Instrumental delivery (forceps)	...	...	54
Cæsarian sections	...	...	14
For twins	...	...	22

The Cæsarian section rate in booked cases was 1.4% and in emergencies 2.5%.

The maternal deaths were six emergency and one booked cases. The booked case was due to haemorrhage from an old cervical tear. The emergency cases included two cases of liver atrophy, one of hydronephrosis, one of severe anaemia, one of pulmonary embolus and one delivered of secondary breast carcinoma.

The total births included : Live births	...	783
Still births	...	58
Total	...	<hr/>

Still birth rate. 68.9 per 1,000 total live and still births.

Neo natal deaths. 42 out of 783 live births.

Neo natal death rate. 53.7 per 1,000 live births.

Premature babies. 84 of which 25 died.

5. BLOOD TRANSFUSION.

The Regional Blood Transfusion Mobile Bleeding Team from Bristol, visited Redruth on Wednesday, 21st May, 1947, and Camborne on Thursday, 22nd May, 1947.

Two Sessions were held each day, when 113 Volunteers presented themselves at Redruth, and 68 at Camborne. The target for each day being 80.

The Organiser was Mrs. H. Thomas, B.R.C.S., of 13 Claremont Road, Redruth, assisted by members of the Red Cross and St. John Organisations of Camborne and Redruth and others.

Volunteers should communicate with Mrs. Thomas or the Secretary-Superintendent at the Hospital.

6. PRIVATE NURSING HOMES.

There are in the area three private nursing homes:—

1. **The Camborne Nursing Home.** Basset Road, Camborne. Miss J. D. Litten, S.R.N., and Miss P. L. Holton, S.R.N. There are 12 registered beds for maternity, surgical and medical patients.
2. **The Tremoryah Nursing Home.** Green Lane, Redruth. Miss E. Johns, S.C.M., and Miss B. MacLean, S.C.M. The home is registered for 13 maternity beds, and for one general case.

SECTION B (Health Services)—continued.

3. **The Redruth Nursing Home.** 10 Trewirgie Road, Redruth. Mr. H. F. Smith, L.P.M.E., M.C.C.C.H., and Mrs. M. E. Smith, S.R.N. The home is registered for 7 maternity beds and 5 general cases.

7. **The Tehidy Sanatorium** is under the administrative control of the Cornwall County Council, Dr. R. N. Curnow. Medical Officer in charge, Dr. E. T. Gaspey.
There are 116 beds, 94 for medical patients and 22 surgical.

8. **Clinics.**
The Tuberculosis Clinic is held at Tuckingmill weekly.
The Orthopædic Clinic is held at Camborne weekly.
Minor Ailments Clinic is held at Camborne weekly.
Venereal Diseases Clinic for males and females is held at Camborne-Redruth Miners' and General Hospital weekly.

These various clinics come under the administrative control of the County Medical Officer, Dr. Curnow. Further information about them can be found in his Annual Report to the County Council.

9. **The Public Assistance Institution, Barncoose, Redruth.**

This Institution has 192 beds, 99 of these being in the Infirmary. These are now entirely devoted to the treatment of the chronic sick, and the infirm.

SECTION C. Sanitary Circumstances of the area.

The following details have been kindly given by the Water Engineer, Mr. T. F. King, M.Inst., M. & Cy.E.

1. **WATER.**

A description of the water supply systems of the area was given in the last report and there appears no reason to repeat it now.

New Works.

The extension of water mains in the St. Day and Lanner Ward has progressed during the year, though not as rapidly as was hoped owing to the slow delivery of certain sections of materials. It is anticipated that the coming year will see the completion of main laying so far approved for this Ward. In spite of serious delays in the supply of small fittings, 177 properties in this Ward were connected to the new mains.

General.

During the year supplies were maintained in spite of the drought without having to exercise extreme restrictions on the use of water. The main public piped supplies have retained the general high quality as will be seen from the following bacteriological analyses. No chemical analysis have been made during the year, but it is proposed to have the main supplies analysed during the coming year on the new Technique as set out in S.R.O. 1947, No. 2342.

No analyses have been made during the year for Plumbo-Salvency. The general precautions taken in respect of this matter is that the use of all lead pipes and fittings are prohibited.

Approximately 80% of the dwelling houses in the area are supplied with water from public water mains.

SECTION C (Sanitary Circumstances)—continued.

Analysis.

All supplies including Wells and Chutes are regularly Bacteriological analysed. The following results were obtained during the year. In all cases where analysis show Class III. or IV., a notice is posted on the site giving instructions to users to boil or otherwise treat the water before use.

Main Water Supply Sources.

		April-Class I.	Oct.-Class III.	Nov.-Class I.
Filtrick	...	„ „ I.	„ „ I.	
Penventon	...	„ „ I.	„ „ I.	
Penstruthal	...	„ „ I.	„ „ I.	
Sandy Lane	...	Sept.-Class I.		
Cathedral	...	„ „ I.		
Distribution Mains	...	April-Class I.	Oct.-Class I.	

Wells and Chutes.

Parsonage Pump	...	Jan.-Class I.	July-Class IV.	
Tolskithy Chute	...	„ „ IV.	„ „ III.	
Roserooggan Pump	...	„ „ I.	„ „ I.	
Knave-go-by Chute	...	„ „ I.	Aug.-Class I.	
Troon Adit	...	„ „ I.	„ „ I.	
Croft Michael	...	„ „ I.	„ „ IV.	
Stennack Pump	...	„ „ III.	„ „ IV.	
Carharrack Pump	...	Feb.-Class I.	Sept.-Class IV.	
Penhalurick Pump	...	„ „ I.	„ „ I.	
Gordon Stand Tap	...	„ „ I.	„ „ I.	
Manor Widden Chute	„ „ I.	„ „ I.		
Redruth Coombe	...	Mar.-Class IV.		
Treskillard Stand Tap	„ „ IV.	Sept.-Class II.		
Bosleake Pump	...	„ „ III.	„ „ IV.	
Carnkie	...	„ „ III.	„ „ II.	
Tiddy's Chute	...	April-Class IV.		
Primitive Chapel	...	„ „ I.		
Lanner Stand Tap	...	„ „ I.		
Carnmarth	...	„ „ I.		
Pink Moors	...	May-Class I.	Nov.-Class I.	
Trevethan Windlass	„ „ I.	„ „ III.		
Five Chutes	...	„ „ I.	„ „ II.	
Vogue Chute	...	„ „ III.	„ „ I.	
Nancekuke Chute	...	„ „ II.	Dec.-Class I.	
Watergate	...	„ „ III.	„ „ III.	
Mawla Well	...	„ „ IV.	„ „ IV.	
Cambrose	...	„ „ IV.	„ „ IV.	
Pennance Pump	...	June-Class I.		
Trevarth Chute	...	„ „ IV.	Dec.-Class IV.	
Carnmarth Chute	...	„ „ I.	„ „ I.	
Capt. Eddy's Chute	...	„ „ I.	„ „ III.	
Little Reskadinnick	...	Aug.-Class III.		
Oak Well	...	„ „ I.		
Roseworthy Chute	...	„ „ III.		
Menadarva	...	„ „ IV.		
Penponds	...	„ „ I.		
Chycarne Moor	...	„ „ II.		
Bolenowe	...	„ „ I.		
Betty Adit	...	„ „ IV.		

SECTION C (Sanitary Circumstances)—continued.

The following details have been supplied by the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. C. F. Baxter, Cert.R.S.I., Inspector of Meat and other foods, Cert.I.H., M.S.I.A., assisted by Mr. M. Nairn, Cert.R.S.I., Inspector of Meat and other foods, and Mr. T. R. Wignall, Cert.R.S.I., Army Certificate of Sanitation.

As the report shows they have had plenty to do, and they have done it well. As compared with last year there is an increase shown in practically every item.

With various new duties entailed with the National Health Service Act it seems to me that it will be necessary to engage an extra Sanitary Inspector during 1948.

2. Complaints.

The following complaints were received and dealt with during the year :—

Choked sewers and drains	...	...	...	...	680
Unsatisfactory housing conditions	...	...	...	...	211
Unsatisfactory sanitation and drainage	...	...	...	...	69
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	12
Verminous premises	...	...	...	...	10
Water supply	...	...	...	...	19
Non-removal of house refuse	...	...	...	...	4
Rats and mice	...	...	...	...	56
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	34
			Total	...	<u>1,095</u>

50 more complaints were dealt with during this year than in 1946, and the increase in the number of complaints concerning unsatisfactory housing conditions amounted to 67.

3. Nuisances Abated, Defects Remedied, etc.

The following works were carried out under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors during the period under review :—

Premises connected to the sewer	...	...	...	...	152
Drains relaid or repaired	...	...	...	...	54
New lengths of drain laid	...	...	...	...	637
Choked drains cleared	...	...	...	...	680
New water closets installed	...	...	...	...	268
Water closets repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	41
Pail or pit closets abolished	...	...	...	...	49
Pail or pit closets repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	7
Cesspools abolished	...	...	...	...	2
New cesspools provided	...	...	...	...	10
Defective roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	42
Eavestroughs and down pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	22
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	83
Rooms cleansed	...	...	...	...	35
Walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	89
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	13
Window frames and sash cords repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	54
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	14
Water supply improved	...	...	...	...	13
Cooking apparatus repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	16
Other nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	39
Notices complied with during the year	...	...	...	...	155

SECTION C (Sanitary Circumstances)—continued.

Verminous Premises.

Alleged verminous premises, 10 in number, were investigated, all concerning fleas. In 9 of these disinfestation was carried out by the department, spraying with an insecticide being effective in all cases. In the other case disinfestation was carried out by the occupier and proved to be effective.

Disinfection of Houses.

43 visits were made following the notification of infectious diseases. 22 premises were disinfected as a result of such visits, and 4 library books were removed from these premises, disinfected, and returned to the libraries concerned.

4. Salvage.

During the year the following quantities of salvage were disposed of:—

			T.	C.	Q.
Paper and cardboard	...	...	143	13	3
Newspapers	...	...	2	15	0
Selected paper	...	...	11	14	0
Books	...	...	8	1	2
Bones	...	...		19	1
Bottles	...	...	2,303 dozen		
Rags and string	...	...		17	3
Metal	...	...	14	7	2
			Total	182	8 3

The above salvage realised £1,241 : 15 : 0, and included in this amount is £113 realised from the sale of bottles.

During the year it was decided to put a second salvage lorry on the road and to make a call at each dwelling house in the urbanised portion of the area once a month. This system was commenced during October, 1947, but the 2½ months during which the scheme was operated in 1947 was insufficient to give a real indication of its efficiency.

The salvage shows an increase of 33 tons and 700 dozen bottles over the previous year.

5. Kitchen Waste.

222 tons of kitchen waste were sold during the year, which shows an increase of 56 tons over 1946. Some sixty small containers were distributed to individual households and proved much more successful than the street bin.

Again no complaints were received during the year concerning the efficiency of the cooking of this material.

The value of the swill sold during 1947 was £902.

6. Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The collection of refuse was carried out with the aid of five Karrier "Bantam" refuse vehicles together with one cart which operates in the Four Lanes area on one day a week.

During the year refuse collection increased to the extent of some 250 bins per week. This number is partly accounted for by new houses being built in the area, and partly by portions of the more rural parts of the area such as Bolenowe, Reskadinnick and Sparnons Gate which now receive a weekly collection. This increase has not as yet necessitated an extra lorry being utilised, but during the winter months one extra loader was placed on each lorry for two days a week.

Refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping at Cook's Kitchen throughout the year. The quantities disposed of were as follows:—

Refuse	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,072 loads.
Rubbish and Highway sweepings	...	...					2,375 loads.

The 4,072 loads of refuse represent 28,507 cubic yards, an increase of 2,645 cubic yards over the previous year's working.

The rubbish and highway sweepings increased by 1,146 loads as compared with 1946.

SECTION C (Sanitary Circumstances)—continued.

One evening during the summer the Council's tip was again set on fire at the tip face. When the tip men arrived at work on the following morning the fire had travelled into the covered portion of the tip. Immediate steps were taken to isolate the fire, but without success. Tipping had to be commenced on an adjoining piece of land and the old tip continued to burn and smoulder for the remaining five months of the year.

7. Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

Sewer Infestations.

During the summer and autumn of 1946 a complete treatment of all sewers in the area was carried out. This was the first time in this area that a serious attempt was made to destroy rats in the Council's sewers. It was found with this initial treatment that the sewers were not heavily infested, although rats were found in various areas.

Two maintenance treatments were carried out during the year, the first during May and June and the second during November and December.

At the first maintenance treatment 170 manholes of the 1,384 manholes in the area were baited and only 4 showed any signs of rat activity.

At the second maintenance treatment 183 manholes were baited and only 3 showed evidence of rat activity.

The manholes in each case were scattered all over the area, hence it appears that our sewers are practically free from rats.

At the request of the Royal Air Force a test baiting scheme was carried out by the department on all sewers on the aerodrome at Portreath. 41 points in the sewers and drains were test baited and no evidence of rats was found. The Ministry of Food had asked for this work to be done as, naturally, these sewers connect with the Council's sewers in the Portreath valley.

Surface Infestations.

For the first eight months of the year rat work continued under the Ministry of Food's temporary scheme, whereby all private premises were treated free of cost to the occupier. The cost of such treatments being apportioned as follows:—60% Ministry of Food and 40% the Local Council. This scheme depended upon the Council carrying out a block survey throughout their area. Such a survey was eventually completed by the end of August. Infestations found during the survey were dealt with at the time, and no reservoir infestations were found during the survey, nor were any major infestations found.

In September we had to revert to the practice of charging all occupiers for work of rat destruction carried out at their premises. This alteration was rather mystifying to the public, and tended to retard the work, fortunately it was possible to revert to the free treatment early in 1948.

In addition to the systematic block surveys mentioned previously, the following work was carried out in connection with minor infestations:—

Points baited	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,123
Poison takes	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,322
Bodies recovered	...	...	...	...	...	...	408

8. Cowsheds and Dairies.

One hundred and thirty-five visits were made to cowsheds and dairies during the year.

Fourteen cowshed premises were registered during the year.

Improvements carried out to dairy premises were as follows:—

Cowsheds.

New cowsheds provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
New floors provided	...	...	...	...	...	10
Improved drainage	...	...	...	...	...	6
Walls cement rendered	...	...	...	...	...	30
Lighting improved	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cowsheds cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	5

SECTION C (Sanitary Circumstances)—continued.

Dairies.

New dairies provided ...	...	...	...	3
New floors provided ...	...	...	...	3
Walls cement rendered ...	...	...	...	12
Sterilisation apparatus provided ...	...	...	...	4
Cooler provided ...	...	...	...	4

Milk Licences were issued as follows:—

Pasteurisation by short time process ...	...	...	1
Retailing pasteurised milk ...	...	...	4
Retailing T.T. milk ...	...	...	4
Bottling T.T. milk ...	...	...	1

9. Factories Act, 1937.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies—				
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938	90	76	2	—
(b) Others	52	8	—	—
(iii) Other premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	142	84	2	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient	4	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	7	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	2	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	8	4	—	—	—
TOTAL	22	7	—	—	—

As is shown above, 84 visits were made to Factories during the year. This is the first year since the war that any serious attempt has been made in connection with this work and the Register of Factories is far from being up-to-date.

Two Fire Certificates were issued to Factories during the year.

SECTION D. Housing.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	444
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	2,213
Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	4
Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	197

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	122
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	1
(b) By local authority in default of owners	1
(b) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	4
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	0

4. Overcrowding.

About 50% of all new applicants for Council houses claim points for overcrowding or near overcrowding, and each claim is investigated. 259 visits were made in connection with overcrowding, and actual statutory overcrowding was found to exist in 83 cases. By the end of the year 20 of these cases had been abated by rehousing in Council property or by other means.

The following details are of interest :—

(a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	87
(b) Number of families dwelling therein	136
(c) Number of persons dwelling therein	545
(d) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	31
(e) Number of persons concerned in such cases	224
(f) Number of families provided with accommodation during the year	110

During the year a new 'points' scheme of allocating tenancies was considered by the Council and finally approved towards the end of November.

Before putting this new scheme into operation I thought it appropriate to obtain up-to-date information regarding the many tenancy applications then on the Council's waiting list, and with this end in view I sent some 1,100 renewal forms (each accompanied by an explanatory letter) out during the third week in November requesting they be completed and returned within seven days.

The fact that during the next four weeks less than 650 or approx. 60% only were returned well justified the action taken. It can only be assumed the other 40% had found accommodation or had left the district since making the last application.

SECTION D (Housing)—continued.

Upon analysis the following interesting information was revealed:—

Category.

(a) Single persons (including those waiting to get married)	...	...	2.4%
(b) Old Age Pensioners	...	...	3.3%
(c) Married Couples without children	...	...	15.7%
(d) „ „ with ONE child	...	...	27.9%
(e) „ „ with TWO children	...	...	16.2%
(f) „ „ with THREE children	...	...	8.5%
(g) „ „ with FOUR children	...	...	3.7%
(h) „ „ with more than four children	...	...	6.6%
(i) Other applicants not classified in above	...	...	15.7%

No less than 35% of the total number of applicants have no home of their own—approximately 1 in every 3 are living 'in rooms' or with parents.

Some 14% or 90 of the applicants state they are under Notice to Quit the houses they occupy. This high percentage in no doubt brought about in consequence of the high prices now prevailing for properties offered for sale with vacant possession.

The following report on new housing has been kindly given by Major R. C. H. GREET, A.R.I.C.S., M.R.S.I., Chief Surveyor.

5. New Housing.

(a) General.

During 1947 the Housing Programme in this area progressed very well, and it is satisfactory to note that when all types of new dwellings are considered, this Authority by May, 1947, had provided more houses than any other Authority in the County. This leading position has since been held and consolidated.

(b) Present Position.

The position of our post war new housing is as under:—

(a) Traditional Houses.

(i.) North Close, Redruth	...	...	...	16 houses completed.
(ii.) Tresavean, Lanner	...	...	...	24 „ „ „
(iii.) Treleweth Road, Pool	...	...	...	28 „ „ „
(iv.) Paynters Lane End, Illogan	...	...	...	38 houses under construction (6 occupied to date).

(b) Temporary Houses.

(i.) Pengegon No. 1	...	...	...	50 Arecons completed.
(ii.) Pengegon No. 2	...	...	...	28 Aluminiums completed.
(iii.) Strawberry Lane, Redruth	...	...	...	22 „ „ „

(c) Permanent Aluminium Houses.

PENGECON. 40 non Traditional Permanent Aluminium houses have been erected to house key workers.

(d) Conversion of Nissen Huts.

14 Nissen Huts at Portreath are being converted into temporary living accommodation. Six of these huts have been completed to date and are occupied.

(c) Future Programme.

(a) Pengegon.

A layout plan for some 325 Traditional houses has been prepared and approved to complete this Estate. It is anticipated that work on the first 56 of these houses will be started shortly.

(b) Treleigh.

This Authority has acquired some 20 acres of ground at Treleigh, Redruth, adjoining our existing housing Estate, and it is likely that a scheme for developing this land will be prepared this year.

SECTION E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

1. Milk.

45 samples of pasteurised milk were taken from the Milk Marketing Board's Creamery at Treswithian during 1947. All 45 samples satisfied the Phosphatase Test, showing that efficient pasteurisation had been maintained.

142 samples of milk were obtained from vendors in the streets and subjected to the Methylene Blue and Coliform Tests.

Only 5 samples failed to pass the Methylene Blue Test and 53 failed to satisfy the Coliform Test.

Comparative percentages of samples satisfying tests were as follows :—

Methylene Blue Test—Passed.

In the year	1940	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
% passed	71.4	83.0	71.4	77.27	84.2	86.9	96.47

Coliform Test—Passed.

In the year	1940	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
% passed	44.4	51.3	44.3	53.8	65.0	57.9	62.7

It will be noted that the percentages of satisfactory samples compares favourably with those of previous years, and as regards the Methylene Blue Test the 100% mark is now being approached. It would appear that the procedure of visiting every producer or vendor immediately following an unsatisfactory sample is having good results. Many improvements in the structure of premises and, more particularly, in the methods of milking and handling milk have been obtained in this way.

2. Inspection of Meats and Other Foods.

The number of animals slaughtered in the area was :—

		1944	1945	1946	1947
Cattle	...	4,412	3,477	3,058	3,134
Calves	...	9,669	10,526	15,137	12,529
Sheep	...	4,411	4,452	3,960	4,509
Swine	...	32,283	34,804	43,282	23,610
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		50,775	53,259	65,437	43,782

It will be noticed that the number of animals slaughtered during the year has decreased by some 22,000 as compared with 1946. This is almost entirely due to the decline of the number of pigs slaughtered. This decline is regrettable in view of the bacon curing industry at Redruth.

2,984 visits were made for the purpose of meat inspection. The usual arrangements continued in connection with meat inspection at the two bacon factories.

The following whole carcases were condemned as unfit for human consumption (in addition to part carcases and offals).

Cows carcases	...	...	...	...	...	221
Bulls carcases	...	...	...	...	...	2
Steers and heifers carcases	...	...	...	...	...	14
Calves carcases	...	...	...	...	...	40
Sheeps carcases	...	...	...	...	...	30
Pigs carcases	...	...	...	...	...	55
						<hr/>
						362

The total weight of meat and offals condemned during the year was :—

94 tons, 3 cwts., 1 qr., 16 lbs.

SECTION E (Supervision of Food)—continued.

Slaughtering continues in four slaughter houses under the direction of the Ministry of Food, and in the two licensed bacon factories. There have been no major improvements at the slaughter houses, and conditions still fall a long way short of ideal. The Council's efforts to provide a central abattoir during the year have been nullified by the Ministries of Health and Food. It would appear that permission to build will be withheld until a definite long-term policy has been formulated by the appropriate Ministry.

Other Foods Condemned.

161 visits were made in connection with the condemnation of foods other than butcher's meat. The following is a list of foods condemned:—

Canned Vegetables	...	...	...	4,247 lbs.
„ Fruit	...	...	...	3,069 „
„ Fish	...	...	...	1,250 „
„ Meat	...	...	...	1,045 „
„ Milk	...	...	...	784 „
„ Soup	...	...	...	1,114 „
„ Grapefruit	...	...	...	1,540 „
„ Tomatoes	...	...	...	1,041 „
Jams and Marmalade	...	...	...	1,397 „
Bacon	...	...	...	1,263 „
Wet Fish	...	...	...	539 „
Miscellaneous Foodstuffs	...	...	...	<u>6,316 „</u>
				<u>23,605 lbs.</u>

Total weight of other foods condemned: 10 tons, 10 cwts., 3 qrs.

3. Food Premises.

227 visits were made to Food Premises during the year.

7 premises were registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, bringing the total number of premises so registered to 73.

The Food Premises Register now contains records of premises as follows:—

Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	69
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	30
Fish and Chips	...	...	...	...	...	24
Restaurants, Cooked Meats, etc.				...	...	27
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	13
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	11
Ice-cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	14
						<u>188</u>

Ice Cream.

With the advent of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947, on the 1st May, 1947, a much greater control of the manufacture, storage and sale of ice-cream was placed in the hands of Local Authorities. Unfortunately the Regulations require the use of specialised apparatus which was practically unobtainable at short notice. All the major ice-cream manufacturers in the district dealt with the problems confronting them to the best of their ability, and placed orders immediately for the supply of the necessary equipment. Not one of the firms was successful in obtaining the whole of the apparatus ordered. Certain small manufacturers decided that it was not financially worth their while to manufacture ice-cream in view of the new Regulations, and they either gave up the sale of ice-cream or else purchased in bulk from some approved source.

SECTION E (Supervision of Food)—continued.

The Ministry of Health recommended that ice-cream samples should be taken and subjected to a Methylene Blue Test as a guide to the cleanliness of this food. 15 samples were taken during the course of the summer and they were graded as follows:—

	2 fell into Provisional Grade I.
1	„ „ „ II.
8	„ „ „ III.
4	„ „ „ IV.

10 of the 12 samples which fell into the two lower grades were taken from ice-cream manufactured locally. One felt that in many instances the low grading of the ice-cream was due largely to lack of the necessary modern apparatus for the manufacture of this food product, and one felt sorry for the manufacturer who had ordered, and in some cases partly paid for, equipment which he could not expect to see on his premises for some 6 to 9 months.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

40 slaughtermen were licensed under the above Act during the year.

SECTION F. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases.

1. Infectious diseases notified were:

Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	467
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
						Total	690	

Measles. As was expected this disease occurred in epidemic form in the early summer, and reached its peak in August. It then subsided during the school holidays, and recurred to reach its second peak during December. All cases were mild, and there were no deaths.

Scarlet Fever. Odd cases cropped up during the year, 16 altogether. The most for any one month was eight in December. All cases were of a mild nature, and were all nursed at home except one.

Whooping Cough. There were 64 cases most of which occurred in the early spring, two of which died. This illness owing to its duration is particularly distressing, and exhausting in young infants. As a result of experimental mass immunisation now being carried out in certain centres in this country it may be possible, soon, to immunise young infants successfully against this infection.

Puerperal Pyrexia. The large number of cases 64 is due to the fact that there are so many obstetric beds in this area. The law requires that any woman with a temperature over 100.4 for a certain period must be notified. The majority of those women were not ill nor were they suffering from any serious infection.

SECTION F (Infectious Diseases)—continued.

Poliomyelitis. Although there was a serious epidemic throughout the county only one case occurred, and that was in a summer visitor from Lancashire.

Diphtheria. There were two cases only of Diphtheria during the year, one in a child aged four that had not been immunised, and another in an adult that died in hospital. This latter case also had not been immunised, but death was not due entirely to the Diphtheria infection. Other complicating factors were present.

This is a very satisfactory drop, but I do not believe for a moment that it can be attributed to the immunisation campaign. Two cases only is by no means a record. There were only two cases in 1937 when there was no immunisation.

We had a considerable drive on immunisation during 1947. Films from the Central Council for Health Education were shown in the local cinemas, and posters were exhibited and leaflets distributed during the carnival processions in the summer. The estimated mid year child population under 14 years of age for 1947 was 7,490. Of these 1,374 were recorded as having been immunised against Diphtheria. There is probably a considerable number of others not recorded who have been immunised privately, not under the County Council scheme, by private doctors. However, even taking this into account one is driven to the conclusion that there must still be about 50% of the child population in this area not immunised against Diphtheria in spite of propaganda and free services, and all the rest of it.

I do not believe there is any active prejudice against immunisation unless amongst a very few. I attribute these poor figures to sheer inertia and procrastination on the part of parents. It is to be hoped that under the National Health Service Act that the immunisation campaign will be prosecuted with increased vigour.

2. Tuberculosis.

The number of persons on the Tuberculosis Register at the beginning, and the end of the year, is here stated:—

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
Jan. 1, 1947	245	147	392	65	45	110	502
Dec. 31, 1947	261	155	416	68	48	116	532

Notified for the first time in the area were:—

15	10	25	1	2	3	28
----	----	----	---	---	---	----

There is a drop of 12 in the number of notifications in 1947 as against 1946, viz., 28 against 40 in the previous year.

3. The County Isolation Hospital, Truro.

The number of patients admitted and the number of patients days residence.

		Patients Total.	Patients Days.
Diphtheria (including carrier type)	... ...	2	21
Tonsillitis	... ...	1	3
Measles	... ...	2	7
Poliomyelitis	... ...	1	21
Cerebro-spinal meningitis	... ...	2	33
Erysipelas	... ...	2	25
Scarlet Fever	... ...	1	8
Total admissions and total patient days		<u>11</u>	<u>118</u>

This is a big improvement on last year largely due to the decline in the incidence of Diphtheria.

